

From: Downes, Scott
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 3:29pm
Subject: Some Comments on the Microsoft Settlement (per Tunney Act)

Respectfully Addressed to the Department of Justice,

I am deeply disturbed by the proposed settlement to the ongoing antitrust action against Microsoft. I understand that the Tunney Act provides me with an opportunity to offer my own comments to the court. Commenting on the situation is important to me as I am a veteran computer programmer who's seen daily the fallout from Microsoft's rough-shod trampling of fair play and innovation in the software industry.

I am concerned that the proposed settlement does not provide adequate deterrence to future monopolists who practice illegal anti-competitive behavior. Microsoft has shown nothing but contempt for the lawful process followed by the DoJ and the legal system in examining this matter. They have blatantly lied in the courtroom, offered rigged demos (!), and attempted to take advantage of the lack of technical expertise shown by some witnesses, most of the lawyers, and each of the judges. Outside of the courtroom, they have continued to flout the law.

What's worse is that Microsoft's strategy appears to have worked. They have stalled, lied, distracted, and manipulated the legal system as well as the American public, all in an effort to delay the resolution of their case until the beginning of a more corporate-friendly presidency. How can America have faith in a Justice Department whose direction is so clearly influenced by political interests? Is there truly no justice at Justice?

Scott Downes